

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1709

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, TGEN, AORG
SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE-1979 BUDGET

REF: A)USNATO 4890, B)USNATO 3918, C)ICA WIRELESS FILE NO.
70 OF APRIL 11, ITEM EUR 14, D) USNATO 4189, E)USNATO 3926,
F) 77 STATE 122938

1. AS REPORTED IN REF A, THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE WILL
CONSIDER THE PRELIMINARY 1979 BUDGET ESTIMATES ON MAY 23.
CHAPTER VII INCLUDES AN INCREASE IN THE SCIENCE BUDGET OF
12 PERCENT (OF WHICH 9 PERCENT WOULD COMPENSATE FOR THE
EFFECT ON SCIENCE PROGRAM COSTS OF INFLATION IN
ALLIED COUNTRIES AND 3 PERCENT REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO
OVERCOME RECENT EROSION IN REAL TERMS OF THE SCIENCE PRO-
GRAM). FURTHER BACKGROUND ON THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL
IS CONTAINED IN ASYG OZDAS' MEMORANDUM ASG.SEA(80)060
(REF B).

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NETHERLANDS' DELEGATION MAY
OBJECT TO SUCH AN INCREASE FOR THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE ON
THE GROUND THAT THE BUDGET FOR THE INFORMATION DIRECTORATE
(CHAPTER IV) IS INCREASED BY ONLY 6 PERCENT AND THE TWO
SHOULD BE KEPT IN BALANCE. THE DUTCH MAY, THEREFORE,
REQUEST A DECREASE IN THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE BUDGET. WE
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RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO RESIST SUCH A SUGGESTION.

3. WHILE WE CONSIDER A 6 PERCENT INCREASE FOR THE INFORMA-
TION DIRECTORATE ADEQUATE AT THIS TIME, GIVEN ITS PRESENT
PROGRAM PLANS, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT OUR POSITION
DURING BUDGET COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS ON FUNDING FOR THE
SCIENCE PROGRAM REFLECT THE STRONG SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT

TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE WHICH WE HAVE EXPRESSED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. MOST RECENTLY, DURING THE COMMITTEE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION, PRESIDENT CARTER REAFFIRMED U.S. SUPPORT OF NATO SCIENCE ACTIVITIES (REF C), AND DR. FRANK PRESS, THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR, STATED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTRACTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMS BECAUSE OF INFLATION (REFS D & E). MOREOVER, THE PROPOSED BUDGET SQUARES WITH GUIDANCE IN REF F THAT U.S. COULD SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE SUFFICIENT TO COMPENSATE FOR PRICE AND WAGES RISES, PLUS A THREE PERCENT PROGRAM INCREASE. WE, THEREFORE, RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT US TO REINFORCE PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED U.S. COMMITMENTS TO THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM BY SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED 12 PERCENT INCREASE IN ITS BUDGET.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS BY COB MAY 22. BENNETT

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